



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

8 NOVEMBER 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Chico – Suspect Arrested After Setting Synagogue Sign on Fire

(U) A suspect has been arrested in Chico for arson and hate crimes after he set a synagogue sign on fire last week and vandalized a mural dedicated to missing and murdered indigenous women. The Chico Police Department received a call regarding a vandalism incident at the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue and arrived on scene to discover that an unidentified suspect burned a sign in front of the synagogue and drew swastikas on the sign. Officers arrested the suspect after receiving complaints about his behavior at California State University-Chico. Officers obtained evidence and statements that provided probable cause for his arrest for both hate-crime incidents. The suspect was booked into the Butte County Jail with a request for charges of hate crimes, arson, vandalism, and a probation violation. SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [Jewish News Syndicate](#)

(U) Fresno – CA Attorney General Announces 19 Arrests in Major Sexual Predator Sting Operation

(U) The California Attorney General announced the arrest of 19 individuals for allegedly attempting to contact a minor for sex and other related crimes. The arrests are the result of a joint undercover operation conducted by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. During the operation, law enforcement personnel worked undercover, posing as children as young as 13-years-old, to identify contact, and arrest anyone who may be trying to target children for sex. The operation was carried out across Fresno County in collaboration with multiple law enforcement partners.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [OAG Press Release](#)

(U) San Diego – 30 People Arrested across San Diego County in Sex Solicitation Sting

(U) An online sting targeting people trying to buy sex last week resulted in the arrests of 30 people across San Diego County. As part of the operation, which took place over four days, law enforcement officers posted online ads offering sex for sale. People who responded to the ads and showed up at an agreed upon location were arrested on suspicion of solicitation. One of the suspects was in possession of cocaine and ketamine, which can be used as a “date rape” drug. The arrests occurred in San Diego, Encinitas, National City, and Santee. San Diego city and county prosecutors will review each arrest and decide whether to file criminal charges.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [SD Union-Tribune](#)

(U) San Diego – Former US Military Pilot Sentenced for Acting as Paid Agent of the PRC

(U) A former US Army helicopter pilot turned civilian contractor from San Diego was sentenced in federal court to 20-months in prison for acting as an agent of the government of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The suspect also accepted thousands-of-dollars from representatives of the Chinese government to provide aviation-related information from his defense-contractor employers. After serving in the US Army, the suspect worked for various cleared defense contractors in the US. During his contracting work, he was approached by an individual in China who claimed to be working for a technical recruiting company, and sought information and materials related to multiple types of aircrafts. The suspect began exchanging information for money during multiple trips abroad before being arrested.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [US DOJ Press Release](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Alabama – Birmingham Man Charged with Arson in Temple Beth-El Fire

(U) Birmingham – A Birmingham man has been charged with arson in connection with an incident at Temple Beth El on the city's southside. The suspect is charged with second-degree arson of a business after police and firefighters found a propane tank and clothes that had been set on fire in the basement of the historic synagogue, there was no damage to the building. The Rabbi of the synagogue advised congregants that the fire was not motivated by antisemitism as the suspect had set several other fires in the area. The suspect is currently awaiting trial on an unrelated breaking-and-entering of a vehicle from 2021, and pleaded guilty to robbery in 1996. An unattended backpack was found outside the temple on the same day and later determined to be non-explosive.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [Al.com](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US Sanctions Members of ISIS Cell in South Africa

(U) Washington – Government officials announced sanctions targeting members of an Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) cell operating in South Africa as well as companies they control, in retaliation for their support of the terrorist group. The US Treasury Department advised that the aim is to choke off support for the network and stem the expansion in the region. The move blacklists four individuals and eight companies, freezing any US assets and denying them the ability to use the US financial system. The sanctions target members of the Durban, a South Africa-based ISIS cell led by Farhad Hooper, who was previously targeted by sanctions.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [Barron's](#)

(U) Missouri – DEA St. Louis Division Breaks Fentanyl Seizure Record

(U) St. Louis – The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in St. Louis broke its fentanyl seizure recovery record in fiscal year 2022 with more than 671-pounds of the deadly opioid seized through Missouri, Kansas, and southern Illinois. The seizure is a 41% increase over the 396-pounds seized in the last fiscal year, and more fentanyl seized than the last two-years combined. In addition, agents and task force officers seized 3,203-pounds of methamphetamine and 57-pounds of heroin. Investigators also seized 503 weapons. The Division was also successful in curtailing money laundering by drug trafficking organizations, seizing and stopping \$13.7 million from reaching criminal organization leaders.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [DEA Press Release](#)

(U) New York – US Seizes \$1 Billion in Bitcoin Stolen from Silk Road

(U) Manhattan – The US is seeking a forfeiture order of more than \$1 billion in Bitcoin that was stolen from the Silk Road online marketplace in 2012. In the second largest seizure in Department of Justice history, law enforcement seized the 50,000 Bitcoin during a November 2021 search of a Georgia home. The seizure was derived from the suspect tricking Silk Road's processing system into releasing the funds into his accounts. The Bitcoin was at the time worth more than \$3 billion, but the value of the cryptocurrency has since lost about two-thirds of its worth. Silk road was seized by the US government in 2013, when officials described the underground website as a massive illegal drug and money laundering marketplace.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) Oregon – One Arrested, nearly 1.5 Tons of Pot Seized in Raids

(U) Cave Junction – A man faces felony marijuana charges accusing him of an illicit marijuana operation linked to two Cave Junction area properties that allegedly involved more than a ton of processed marijuana. Authorities charged the suspect with two counts of unlawfully possessing a marijuana after carrying out a search warrant. Law enforcement discovered approximately one ton of dried processed illegal marijuana products "in the form of flower buds, concentrates and extracts" and another 960-

UNCLASSIFIED

pounds of unlicensed processed marijuana at the property. In addition, authorities seized seven firearms, a cargo trailer and 8-pounds of illicit THC extracts.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany – Customs Officials Seize Cocaine Valued at €44.5 Million Euros

(U) Berlin – German customs officials have seized 635-kilograms of cocaine among bananas shipped from Ecuador. The cocaine, compressed into blocks and wrapped in plastic film, was discovered in several packages in Duisburg in western Germany. The packages were wedged between bananas in a container shipped from Ecuador that had arrived in Germany via the Dutch port of Vlissingen.

Authorities put the street value of the cocaine at about €44.5 million euros.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [ABC News](#)

(U) Poland – Hacking Attack Idles Polish Government’s Investment Website

(U) Warsaw – An attack by unknown hackers idled the website of the Polish government office regulating public investment. The Public Procurement Office advised the attack came from outside servers and only idled a certain platform. The platform was still currently inaccessible, and it was not clear if there were any leaks. The office’s task is to regulate public investment and ensures the hiring of companies is according to the law and transparent. Poland’s government’s websites have been previously targeted by hacking attacks, believed to be mostly launched by Russian speakers.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [Washington Times](#)

(U) Russia – Russia’s Prigozhin Admits Interfering in US Elections

(U) Moscow – Russian businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin stated he interfered in US elections and would continue doing so in future, the first such admission from a figure who has been formally implicated by Washington in efforts to influence American politics. Prigozhin stated Russia had “interfered, are interfering, and will continue to interfere.” Prigozhin, who is often referred to as “Putin’s chef,” has been formally accused of sponsoring Russia-based “troll farms” that seek to influence US politics. Prigozhin kept a low public profile until recently but has become more outspoken during the Ukraine war, including by criticizing the performance of Russia’s generals.

SOURCE: 7 November 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Spain – Civil Guard Seizes ‘Largest Stash of Marijuana Discovered’

(U) Madrid – The Spanish Civil Guard seized the largest haul of cannabis ever reportedly found over a series of drug raids across the country. Authorities advised twenty individuals were detained, all of which were part of a larger organization that controlled drug production and distribution. The organization transported the vacuum-packaged drug throughout Spain and to other European countries, including Switzerland, Holland, Germany, and Belgium. During the operation, agents discovered 32,000-kilograms of marijuana buds, the largest seizure of this substance, not only in Spain, but also internationally. The Civil Guard also found four-tons of stored cannabis aboard a ship en route to two warehouses in Valencia. An investigation is ongoing with other plantations currently being inspected for cannabis production.

SOURCE: 6 November 2022, [Fox News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

UNCLASSIFIED